

Regional Development News & Notes



May 2003



Edited by Glenn Coppelman, Regional Development Coordinator

NH Office of State Planning / 2 ½ Beacon Street / Concord, NH 03301 <http://webster.state.nh.us/osp/cdbg> 603-271-2155 (voice) 603-271-1728 (fax)

CRDC Affiliate Approved by Treasury Department

The Capital Regional Development Council (CRDC) announced recently that its affiliated for-profit subsidiary, the **CRDC Community Investment Fund**, has been certified by the U.S. Treasury Department as a Community Development Entity (CDE) serving Belknap, Grafton, Merrimack and Sullivan Counties. The certification will allow the Fund to apply for federal tax credits under the New Markets Tax Credit Program. The program authorizes new tax credits that are intended to spur \$15 billion in private investments in low-income communities. Investors in qualified projects are eligible to receive a 39% credit against federal income taxes over a seven-year period. For more information on the program, and to find out which communities in the Fund's service area are project-eligible, contact CRDC Executive Director Niel Cannon at 603-228-1872.

CDBG Okays Two E.D. Projects

At its meeting on April 9th, the CDBG Advisory Committee voted to approve the following Economic Development applications:

- \$700,000 to the Town of Winchester for subgranting to Monadnock Economic Development Corp. CDBG funds will be used for a loan to Atlantic Paper Mills of NH to create 35 new jobs.
- \$140,000 to Sullivan County for subgranting to Western Region Development Corp. CDBG funds will be used to purchase a machine shop in Newport, NH. Building will be leased to Go Rin Seiki and will result in the creation of 7 new jobs.

CDFA Approves Funding For Two Incubator Projects

The New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) recently approved funding for two business incubator projects. The Dartmouth Regional Technology Center in Lebanon, NH will receive \$1,250,000 over four years; and the Mt. Washington Valley Technology Village in Conway, NH will receive \$525,000 over three years. The incubators are part of a statewide initiative to develop and support the state's high technology and biotechnology industries. For more information, contact CDFA at 603-226-2170.



USDA Awards RBEG Grants to WEDCO and SBAC

In an effort to increase the amount of investment capital available to small/medium size businesses, USDA Rural Development recently awarded two Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) to RDCs in New Hampshire. Wentworth Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO) received \$97,100; and Seacoast Business Alliance Corporation (SBAC) was granted \$92,100. The grants will be used to re-capitalize the revolving loan funds of these two organizations. The RBEG program from USDA Rural Development makes grants to non-profit corporations or public bodies to support development of small businesses. For more information on the RBEG program, contact Rob McCarthy at USDA Rural Development in Concord at 603-223-6042.

CDBG “101”



#13 in a series: Environmental Review (part II): Legal & Other (see CDBG Implementation Guide for more information)

Legal Responsibilities: Environmental responsibilities have both legal and financial ramifications. As part of the assurances signed by the grantee, the CEO of the grantee agrees to assume the role of “responsible federal official” under the provisions of NEPA. This means that if someone brings suit against the local program in federal court on environmental grounds, the CEO will be named as the defendant.

The local CEO must also assume the role of environmental “certifying officer” and accept full responsibility for the completeness and accuracy of the reviews. This environmental duty may not be delegated, although consultants, staff and/or State resources may provide technical assistance to support local efforts.

In administering the program, the State of New Hampshire accepts no responsibilities or liabilities for the quality or accuracy of the local government review process.

Continued ►

Did You Know?

(things to ponder, or not, when solving the economic development needs of NH)



Actor Robert Mitchum served time on a Georgia chain gang as a teenager. He had been arrested for vagrancy.

(Lesson: Past performance is not necessarily an indicator of future activity!)



Create an Environmental Review Record (ERR)

Grantees are required to establish and maintain a written record of the environmental review undertaken for each CDBG funded activity. The ERR is actually a complete file containing all of the documentation required in the environmental review process. It must be available for public review and inspection.

Formally Designate the Environmental Certifying Officer (ECO)

Even though OSP requires that the local CEO also serve as the ECO, the grantee must take formal action to make this designation, and provide evidence of this designation in the ERR. Formal action may include a memo to the file by the CEO, resolution by the Board of Selectmen, or any other mechanism normally employed by the grantee to make such official designations of responsibility.

Determine the Scope of the Project

In order to conduct the proper review procedure, the grantee must determine the scope of the project which is funded by, or dependent on, CDBG. This is particularly relevant to projects that involve non-CDBG funding, or projects that involve multiple activities in physically separate locations. As a general rule, any activity in a “project” which could not occur absent CDBG-funded activities is subject to the environmental review requirements of this chapter. If uncertain as to whether an activity should be included in the scope, err on the side of safety...include it!

NH Alliance of RDCs Elects Officers



At its Annual Meeting on April 24th, the NH Alliance of Regional Development Corporations elected the following officers for the coming year:

Marie Cappello (REDC), President
Niel Cannon (CRDC), Vice-President
Gordon Hale (MBV), Treasurer
Dan Gray (SBAC), Secretary